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in structure might be the result of what was originally a pathological condition.

— At the same meeting Mr. E. T. Newton read a paper on the remains of a gigantic bird (*Gastornis plasseni*) from the English Lower Eocene. The author observed, reports *Nature*, that these fossils proved that in early Eocene times England was inhabited by a race of birds which equaled in their proportions some of the more massive forms of the New Zealand moas.

— Hon. J. D. Cox publishes in the Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society for June an interesting article on the structure of the diatom shell, in which he attempts to prove the actual presence of films of silex, whose tenuity is so great that they are not visible by ordinary transmitted light.

— The Des Moines Academy of Science has issued the first number of its Bulletin, which contains, besides an introductory note, an article by R. E. Call, entitled a geographic catalogue of the Unionidæ of the Mississippi valley.

— Professor J. H. Whiteside, the æronaut, has presented to Woodward's Gardens a canary twenty-two years old. The bird is sightless, songless and very feeble.

— We learn that Dr. Taschenberg, of Halle, is preparing a new edition of the well-known Bibliotheca Zoologica of Agassiz and others.

— Dr. Franklin B. Hough died June 11th, 1885, aged 62. He was for a while United States Commissioner of Forestry, and gave much attention to that subject.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.—April 14.—Dr. H. C. McCook stated that spiders allied to the line weaver, *Theridion tepedariarum*, preserve their activity and spinning habit while exposed to cold ranging from freezing point to zero; that after long and severe exposure they rapidly recover their activity when brought into a warm temperature, and at once resume their habits on the return of spring, even after a severe and prolonged winter. The young of the orb-weavers survive the winter in the admirably arranged cocoons provided by maternal instinct. Early in the spring many nearly full-grown spiders may also be found, all of which have safely weathered the cold months.

A paper entitled "Notes on Mesozoic cockroaches," by S. H. Scudder, was presented for publication.

April 28.—Mr. Morris stated his conviction that the swim-bladder in fishes was a degenerate organ, formerly of use, but now without an important function. The fact that in embryonic states

it is connected with the œsophagus by a duct points to the idea that it formerly performed, to some extent, the function of a lung. The speaker believed that in previous ages fishes visited the land in search of food much more frequently than now, and that an air-breathing apparatus was developed by a pouching of the œsophagus. When the increased number of predatory land animals compelled fishes to confine themselves to water, this structure degenerated.

A paper by Mr. W. S. Blatchley "On the genus *Aphredoderus*" was presented for publication.

Mr. T. Meehan, in the Botanical Section, remarked on the peculiarities of *Mammillaria haydeni*, and other allied species, the ovaria of which remain buried between the closely appressed walls of the mammæ from April or May until just before the next flowering season, when they stretch out to their full length in a single night. As in this species the fruit is two inches long, and bright red, the effect of its sudden appearance, which is certainly due to elastic projection and not to growth, is very striking.

May 5.—Mr. Willcox stated that Florida sea-urchins were covered in March with shells, some of which contained living mollusks. In January they were free from this covering. *Fulgur perversus* is embedded in the sand when spawning, and attaches the smaller end of the egg-string, first protruded, to a stone below her. When the entire string is liberated the portion last protruded floats out with the tide. As only four or five capsules are to be found in the mollusks at one time, the process of laying the string probably occupies weeks. The speaker stated that he had found specimens only three and a half inches long in the act of spawning.

Professor Heilprin exhibited a pebble from the yellow gravel near Glassboro', containing *Scolithus linearis*. This, which he believed to be the first instance of the occurrence of the fossil in New Jersey, pointed, as did other Silurian and Devonian fossils collected in the same locality, to the origin of the deposits in the eastern continental border.

Mr. A. F. Gentry presented "A Review of the genus *Phrynosoma*."

May 12.—Mr. Meehan presented the manuscript diary of Wm. Bartram from 1802 to 1822. The migration of birds, dates of blooming of spring flowers, etc., are carefully noted.

Professor Lewis exhibited specimens of fossil plants from the new tunnel at Phoenixville. Some minute phylloids were also described. The same beds were found in abundance in certain beds at Gwynedd.

Professor Lewis also exhibited specimens of erythrite from Phoenixville, and of cuprite from Frankfort. The former has never before been found in North America, and the latter is new to the locality.

Professor Heilprin called attention to the grouping, by Professor Eugene Smith, of the phosphate beds discovered by the latter, with the Jackson and Vicksburg deposits, as Oligocene. The palæontological character of the beds was given, and the conclusion drawn that there was a strong line of demarkation between them.

"A review of the genera and species of Mullidæ," by E. A. Hall and T. Z. McCaughan, was presented for publication.

May 19.—Professor Lewis announced the discovery of genthite in the Lafayette soapstone quarry. It occurs in small, bright, emerald-green crusts, showing the stalactitic structure characteristic of the species. This discovery proves the presence of nickel in the Pennsylvania serpentines.

Mr. Jos. Willcox stated that genthite had also been found at Webster, N. C.

Dr. Leidy described a number of tape-worms of a new species from a trout. The specimens were mature, measured from three to eight inches in length, and contained eggs in the segments near the head. The name *Bothriocephalus cestus* was proposed for it.

Mr. Potts stated that he had found a digestive cavity in the hydroid without tentacles previously described by him, and had seen it capture and swallow its food. The name *Microhydra ryderi* was given to it; genus and species both new.

Miss Fielde stated that, as a high authority upon nerve tissue had suggested that its reproduction in the earth-worms she had experimented upon was simulated, and that such reproduction was impossible, she had carefully examined the specimens, and found the tissue to be real, and as sensitive as the primitive growth. All the life processes were now performed as completely by the worms which had been decapitated as by those which had not been injured.

May 26.—Professor H. C. Lewis gave the result of his studies of the extreme southern edge of the ice-sheet in Pennsylvania. Certain short ridges of stratified drift, which often seemed to represent a backward drainage of the melting edge of the glacier, were spoken of as marginal kames. The speaker then described kames, eskers or osars, as studied in various parts of the world, and discussed the various theories of their origin. The kames are of gravel, fine within, often coarse without, and boulders and till often lie upon them. They contain no shells, and their courses coincide with the general drainage of the country. These kames seemed to be due to sub-glacial streams draining the edge of the ice-sheet. When the terminal moraine rested against an upward slope this drainage was backward or into the ice.

June 2.—Mr. W. N. Lockington gave an account of the progress of European colonization in Africa, and the opposition to it likely to be presented by the spread of Islamism.

Mr. Potts called attention to a curious fresh-water sponge which

occurs in the dry bottom lands of the Colorado, hanging from branches of trees in districts which are flooded about six weeks in the year. The species had previously only been found in the rock cisterns of Bombay. It is *Mayenia plumosa* Carter.

CINCINNATI SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.—July 7.—The following papers were read: "On a supposed fossil fungus from the coal measures," and "Obscure markings on rocks of Cincinnati group," by Professor Jos. F. James; "Notes on Tertiary of Alabama and Mississippi, with descriptions of new species," and "Notes on rare or little known Tertiary fossils," by T. H. Aldrich.

THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY.—American Fish-Culture Association, order of exercises, Tuesday, May 5th, 1885: 1. Opening address, Hon. Theo. Lyman, president of the society; 2. Appointment of committees and other business. Recess. List of papers: 1. The giant clams of Puget sound, Professor R. E. C. Stearns; 2. Hibernation of the black bass, James A. Henshall, M.D.; 3. Smelt hatching, Fred. Mather; 4. The porpoise fishery of Cape Hatteras, Frederick W. True.

Wednesday, May 6.—5. Results of artificial propagation and planting of white fish in the great lakes, Frank N. Clark; 6. Does transplanting affect the food or game qualities of certain fishes? A. Nelson Cheney; 7. How to restore our trout streams, J. S. Van Cleef; 8. Exhibition of complete series of salmon and trout of North America, Tarleton H. Bean; 9. Objective points in fish culture, M. McDonald; 10. A glance at Billingsgate, W. V. Cox; 11. Work at Cold Spring harbor, Fred. Mather; 12. Oyster Beds of New York, Eugene G. Blackford; 13. On some of the protective contrivances developed by and in connection with the ova of various species of fishes, John A. Ryder; 14. The use of the throwing-stick by Eskimo in fishing, O. T. Mason; 15. The chief characteristics of North America fish fauna, Theodore Gill; 16. Suggestions as to the development of oyster culture in the Chesapeake area, M. McDonald; 17. Biennial spawning of salmon, Charles G. Atkins.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, April 8.—Mr. W. M. Davis presented a paper on geographic evolution, illustrated by models; Mr. Frederic Gardiner, Jr., gave an account of a horseback trip in Northern Arizona with lantern illustrations of scenery on the Navajo reservation and on Walnut cañon and the Grand cañon of the Colorado.